REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

In the specification, paragraphs have been amended on page 2.

Claims 1-23 are currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-23 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph issues of indefiniteness as detailed in the Office Action. These claims have been amended in order to address and overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Regarding antecedent basis for "the registered use" as recited in claims 3, 5 and 6, the preceding recitation of "previously registering in a storing unit an applicable use" defines the "registered use" and provides the antecedent basis therefor. Similarly, "selected use" has antecedent basis in the preceding recitation of "selection of the registered use" in, for example claim 5. Should there be any further questions or concerns regarding the claim language, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative by telephone.

Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Schein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,412,110). In view of the amendments to the claims and for at least the reasons set forth herein, this rejection has been overcome. Schein et al. arguably discloses displaying the applicable use of the software and highlighting the GUI widget to be acted on next. However, Schein's software relates to such a software that <u>itself</u> has the

function of displaying the applicable use of the software and the highlighting function of the GUI widget. This is because Schein does not include the detection function of the displayed position of the GUI widget as is recited in the claims of the present application.

For example, in order for one software A to highlight/display a GUI widget "X" which is displayed by another software B (i.e., different from the software B), it is important to be able to detect the displayed position of X on the screen. For the software B itself, if X is the GUI widget displayed by the software B itself, it is possible to highlight X based on suitable coding without having to detect the displayed position of X. In other words, if software B is itself performing the highlighting/display, there is no need for the detecting function of GUI widget.

According to the present invention, a software A is different from software B, and a GUI widget X which is displayed/highlighted by the software B is displayed in a relative positional relation to (or in association with) the screen displayed (controlled) by software A. For this purpose, the position detection of GUI widget is provided in the claims. This is not performed in Schein et al. nor is the problem addressed by the present invention treated by Schein et al.

Therefore, please reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claims 2 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,141). In view of the amendments to these claims and for at least the reasons set forth herein, this rejection has been overcome. Claim 2 recites, in pertinent part, "displaying a cover screen hiding an inherent screen of a software on a display device" and "displaying the applicable use of said software in a menu form on said cover screen." In Smith et al., the television source may indeed be covered by a browser application program. This, however, does not disclose the feature of

the claimed invention that a cover screen is displayed over an inherent screen of software where the cover screen displays the intended use of the software. Further, there is no disclosure in Smith et al. of, if an operation on the cover screen is performed, executing an equivalent operation on the underlying inherent screen of the software. Claim 9 recites similar subject matter and is allowable over the Smith et al. reference or the same reasons.

Furthermore, claim 2 recites "an operation equivalent to the operation performed on said cover screen is executed on the inherent screen of said software in accordance with previously registered widget-relation information." Claim 9 recites the same function. This feature is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Smith.

In addition, claims 2 and 9 have been amended to make clear that the software operating the inherent screen is different than the software operating the cover screen. In the Office Action, Smith is cited for its disclosure of a web browser that covers a television source. Column 7, lines 29 et seq. recites as follows:

--Referring first to FIG. 5(a), graphical user interface 500, in which web browser application program 504 is running, is superimposed (i.e., overlaid) on top of television source 502. Such web browser application programs are known within the art. User-controllable pointer 506 is shown as not positioned over any part of television source 502 (i.e., and is instead within web browser program 504). Referring next to FIG. 5(b), when pointer 506 is positioned over a lower portion of television source 502, control panel 508 for web browser program 504 appears superimposed on source 502.--

In Smith, as shown in its Figs. 5A and 5B, there is a displayed web browser program "WEB" 504 which is displayed overlapping the TV SHOW (source screen 502). This source screen 502 displaying the TV SHOW is not the program-controlled display screen, i.e., it is not an "inherent screen of a software on a display device" as defined in amended claims 2 and 9. Smith only

discloses an overlapping display of a WEB browser application <u>over</u> the "source" (background) display screen of a TV SHOW. The actively involved software is only the "WEB browser application program." There is only one software. In contrast thereto, the <u>inherent</u> (background) screen of claims 2 and 9 refer to the software-operated screen <u>controlled by a software different from that of cover screen</u>, and acting on the GUI widget on the cover screen performs the same function as if one is acting on the inherent screen. Also, in the case of the TV-SHOW of Smith, there is no corresponding "applicable use" in the TV-SHOW program even if the cover screen is operated. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 2 an 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Also in the Office Action, claims 3, 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Schein et al. in view of Nason et al..(U.S. Patent No. 6,437,809). In view of the amendments to these claims and for at least the reasons set forth herein, this rejection has been overcome. Schein and Nason do not disclose detecting the displayed position (location) of the GUI widget from the exterior, this GUI widget being displayed/controlled by a software different from an "inherent" (or background) screen-operating software. The comments made above with respect to claims 1 and 8 apply equally hereto. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended in a manner similar to claims 1 and 8. Accordingly, this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Also in the Office Action, claims 5, 6, and 10-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Schein et al. in view of Smith and further in of Nason et al. In view of the amendments to these claims and for at least the reasons set forth herein, this rejection has been overcome. The comments made above with respect to claims 2 and 9 apply equally hereto.

Specifically, the claims have been amended to make clear that the GUI widget is operated externally of the software of the inherent screen. In claims 5 and 6, at least steps (e), (g) and (j) are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited prior art references. Claims 10-23 recite similar steps. As mentioned

above, and missing from the cited references, according to the present invention as recited in the amended claims, based on such features, certain software A can <u>perform an operation</u> (execution) that is equivalent to an action by a user <u>on the GUI screen operated by another software B which is different one from the software A itself</u>. (See, e.g., step (g) of claim 5). Note, the GUI screen of software B is not visible for the user, because of the cover screen displayed by software A. Further, the information displayed on the screen of software B can be obtained by software A, followed by displaying it on the cover screen of software A if needed (see, e.g., step (j) of claim 5).

The features described above, as recited in the claims, are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited prior art references. Accordingly, this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.
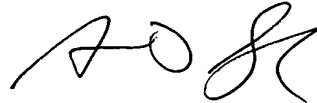
The Examiner is also respectfully requested to acknowledge Applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 filed with the application on January 12, 2001.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

MARCH 22, 2004
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Date

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